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Chair: Mr. Proaño (Vice-Chair) ..... (Ecuador)

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In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Proaño (Ecuador), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/70/95-S/2015/446 and A/70/357-S/2015/682)

1. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that United Nations peacekeeping played a central role in the maintenance of international peace and security and its operational capacity and organizational structure must be strengthened. In that regard, when establishing any peacekeeping operation or extending any mission mandate, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations — especially respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs — as well as the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations must be strictly observed.

2. To be truly effective, peacekeeping operations required, from the start, political support, sufficient human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and feasible mandates. A clear exit strategy was indispensable, bearing in mind that the evaluation of the deadlines for the transition, reconfiguration, downsizing and withdrawal of peacekeeping missions depended on a flexible, objective and progressive assessment of the political and security situation in the host country and needs on the ground. Peacekeeping missions were not a goal in themselves, but a temporary measure to develop a security framework enabling the implementation of a long-term sustainable development strategy. However, the maintenance of such missions depended on the continued contributions of troop- and police-contributing countries; efficient and timely reimbursements to such countries were, therefore, imperative.

3. CELAC, recognizing the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the sole and irreplaceable intergovernmental body authorized to make a comprehensive review of the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, reiterated its strong commitment to the revitalization of that Committee. The Special Committee's annual report continued to be a relevant, analytical and substantive tool for strengthening the global peacekeeping partnership and must remain the guiding instrument for the Secretariat. CELAC therefore reiterated its call for greater interaction of the Special Committee with the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Fifth Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs. That was all the more important in view of developments such as the establishment, on an exceptional basis, of an Intervention Brigade with an offensive mandate in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). It was important to consider the effect such a mandate could have on the safety and security of peacekeepers, the protection of civilians and the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping, in particular the principle of impartiality. Modern technology was crucial in enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. However, the use of technology must be consistent with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping, in particular the principle of consent of the State concerned.

4. CELAC underscored its request to the Security Council to improve consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries to take into account the views of those countries in the formulation of policies and in decision-making on matters such as deployment, transition, renewal of mandates and other major changes in an operation. CELAC also recognized the vital role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and stressed the need to promote their full participation in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

5. While 10 United Nations peacekeeping missions currently had mandates for the protection of civilians, the primary responsibility for such protection rested with host countries, and a legitimate need to protect civilians should not be used to bypass the principle of State sovereignty. All stakeholders in the establishment and implementation of civilian protection mandates must share a common understanding of such mandates and the related rules of engagement. It was therefore necessary to improve triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as coordination between host countries and mission leaders.

Furthermore, the draft policy and guidelines on protection of civilians issued by the Secretariat must be examined and approved by the Special Committee in the light of their importance and the sensitivity of the matter.

6. It was essential to ensure the highest level of ethical conduct on the part of peacekeeping personnel; CELAC reiterated its deep commitment to the United Nations zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse, the prompt investigation of all acts of misconduct and full accountability, in accordance with due process of law and the relevant memorandums of understanding. CELAC welcomed the systematic steps taken to eliminate and prevent misconduct, including the registration and follow-up of all complaints of misconduct.

7. Given the close interlinkage between security and development, there was a need for stronger coordination between peacekeeping operations and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, including the agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission. Peacebuilding tasks, especially early peacebuilding, should be properly included in peacekeeping mandates, since they constituted a critical pillar of mission success, not only helping missions to engage with the local population but also serving as a key tool in conflict prevention. CELAC looked forward to the intergovernmental process that would consider and take action on the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968-S/2015/490).

8. CELAC reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti and reiterated its commitment to contribute troops and police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). It reaffirmed the importance of adequate planning for a responsible transition of the Mission, with the full participation of the Haitian Government and in close contact with troop- and police-contributing countries. The international efforts to help Haiti must be part of a sustainable and comprehensive long-term strategy, under the guidance and leadership of the Government of Haiti, and with full respect for its sovereignty. In that regard, CELAC welcomed the holding, in 2015, of the first round of legislative elections in addition to presidential, municipal and local elections. It supported the constitutional Haitian authorities and all stakeholders committed to completing the electoral process in order to preserve and consolidate the recent progress made towards a stable democracy, development and improved living conditions for all Haitians.

9. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said that the reviews of United Nations peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which should be considered comprehensively, provided an opportunity to make timely and much-needed changes in the Organization's engagement in fragile States affected by conflict. The group urged Member States to consider the abundant analyses and recommendations available to make peace operations more modern, accountable and effective and to improve the safety and security of deployed personnel. The three countries were ready to assist in furthering constructive dialogue to that end.

10. Comprehensive approaches using all of the Organization's conflict prevention, management and resolution tools were needed to achieve political solutions and sustainable peace. The CANZ group welcomed the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and its focus on sustaining peace as a core task and as the guiding principle in all engagements before, during and after conflict. United Nations peace operations should be judged by their impact on civilians, whose protection remained central to the credibility and overall effectiveness of multidimensional peace operations. While the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians rested with host Governments, United Nations missions with a mandate to protect civilians must have preventive strategies in place, including a common understanding of obligations for intervention if prevention failed.

11. Mission-level efforts must be made to ensure local ownership, while protection advisers and civil affairs officers played a central role in helping to implement civilian protection mandates. The United Nations should conduct regular assessments of political and protection efforts to monitor progress and ensure that missions had the right capabilities to meet current and anticipated demands. It should also engage in initiatives that brought a greater field focus to United Nations peace operations — such as using new technologies — and systemic and structural improvements in the Secretariat. Responsive supported mechanisms to enable flexible and forward-leaning

postures were particularly critical, especially for protection missions.

12. There should also be greater recognition of the particular contribution of women in conflict prevention and resolution. To be fully effective, peace operations should take a gender-based approach in all phases of the mission, in particular by including women at all levels of decision-making and operations. Enhanced recruitment, retention and advancement strategies for female military and police personnel, including those in positions of leadership, as well as a greater role for gender advisers, were needed. While the CANZ countries welcomed the emphasis on those principles in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), recent events had illustrated that much remained to be done to eradicate the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations. The countries strongly condemned all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers and called for the full implementation of the zero-tolerance approach. The Secretary-General's recently announced measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse must be implemented and monitored regularly.

13. The CANZ group appreciated the importance given to policing in peacekeeping operations in Security Council resolution 2185 (2014). They also welcomed the call by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Secretary-General for an external review of United Nations policing to ensure that the Organization's police capabilities evolved to meet increasingly sophisticated mandates. Such a review, which should involve wide consultation with Member States, would be a unique opportunity to define clearly the role of the United Nations in community policing, countering organized crime and terrorism, and capacity-building in Member States.

14. The group also welcomed steps taken by the Secretariat to improve the safety and security of deployed personnel. Early engagement with troop-contributing countries would ensure that mission objectives matched available capabilities. The Secretariat should also draw on existing capabilities and bring greater coherence to the Organization's professional information system in order to strengthen early warning and situational awareness while enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. He welcomed initiatives to address capability and performance requirements, such as the recent Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and the newly established Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell.

15. Consistent and coherent training to United Nations standards for peacekeepers, particularly at the predeployment phase, was also critical. While the standardization efforts under way, including the United Nations Military Units Manuals project, were important, the Secretariat should continue its efforts to improve contingent training and performance, and to make certification a mandatory part of the force generation process. Further strengthening of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership would also ensure that deployed military and police forces consistently met the operational needs of missions. Moreover, existing partnerships between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat could be improved.

16. The CANZ group was encouraged by the Security Council's commitment to addressing emerging threats earlier — including in partnership with regional and subregional organizations — and to receiving timely analysis from the Secretary-General on possible threats to international peace and security, as had recently been the case of Burundi and Burkina Faso. Efforts to further institutionalize relationships with and leverage the comparative advantages of regional and subregional organizations in United Nations peace and security efforts were also welcome. Despite the closer cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, more could be done to improve cooperation with regional organizations across the whole spectrum of the United Nations peacekeeping agenda. The Secretary-General was encouraged to increase his communication and cooperation with regional organizations to, inter alia, facilitate transitions between regional and United Nations support operations more effectively when required.

17. Member States must now translate recommendations into concrete, practical and realistic actions in an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was more indispensable than ever in efforts to enhance and modernize United Nations peacekeeping. Member States must come together in that and other relevant bodies to demonstrate their commitment to the Organization's peace operations, to peacekeepers, and above all, to the most vulnerable populations whose very lives hung in the balance. It was time to heed the call for change through collective and

constructive action and, in so doing, acknowledge the commendable service of the male and female peacekeepers, including those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

18. **Ms. Dedu** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that peacekeeping was in continuous evolution. As conflicts changed, so did the response, requiring more proactive and multidimensional peacekeeping operations — involving civilian and political aspects — to promote stability in the aftermath of conflict. In the light of the increased complexity of peacekeeping operations and the challenges to be addressed, his delegation was ready to contribute to discussions in the relevant committees and bodies. Prevention and mediation — making full use of the Secretary General's good offices, the early deployment of special political missions, peacebuilding and mediation tools and public diplomacy — must become a priority. Likewise, consolidating peacebuilding efforts must be on the agenda and must be fully synchronized with peacekeeping efforts. Wider peacebuilding activities needed the means to be effective.

19. The protection of civilians and the prevention of atrocities must be at the core of any peacekeeping operation's mandate. Her delegation welcomed the emphasis on regular assessments of missions' political and protection effect, capabilities and needs, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/357-S/2015/682). The European Union and its member States attached great importance to the mandates concerning child protection and conflict-related sexual violence; any changes in mission structures should not curtail their ability to protect women and children in situations of armed conflict effectively. The protected must not be harmed by those meant to protect them. In that regard, she welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to increase accountability and strengthen the system's ability to deal decisively with sexual exploitation and abuse. Local ownership was an important factor in the protection of civilians and her delegation welcomed the suggestion for mission-wide strategies and guidance to engage with local populations. Furthermore, efforts to strengthen gender mainstreaming in mission settings and to reinforce gender expertise, as stated in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), were in line with the European Union's commitment to advancing the women, peace and security agenda both internally and in relations with third countries.

20. United Nations peace operations must have clear, coherent and achievable mandates that included a strong human rights component. Transition arrangements and exit strategies should be explored at an early stage and should take into account elements to assess the overall efficiency of missions upon their completion. The challenge of adequate force generation, particularly in terms of enablers and other critical capabilities, must also be taken into account in mission planning. States must match political intent with operational strength for peace operations to succeed. The success of missions also depended on adequate training, including standardized gender-sensitive training and operational training on children in armed conflict, and equipment for United Nations personnel before and during deployment.

21. It was important to guarantee the requisite human, political and financial resources for peace operations and special political missions to deliver on their mandates. In the light of the complex and dangerous contexts in which missions operated, information and intelligence were essential for mandate delivery and personnel protection. The use of modern technology in peacekeeping must be encouraged and further efforts were necessary to ensure the security of peacekeepers. The European Union supported the Organization's efforts to develop those capacities for current and future missions. It was, however, important to acknowledge that some field support processes remained cumbersome and labour-intensive, hindering operations and effectiveness.

22. The European Union welcomed the increased focus on global-regional partnerships such as the agreement recently concluded with the United Nations on closer cooperation under the strategic partnership on peacekeeping crisis management. In addition to its missions and operations in support of United Nations peacekeeping objectives around the world, the European Union remained committed to giving full support to African efforts to manage security on the continent. Better definition of the role of regional

organizations in interventions led by the United Nations would facilitate rapid deployment where necessary. It was also important to ensure that the Special Committee continued to produce relevant and meaningful strategic guidelines within the defined timelines.

23. **Mr. Isnomo** (Indonesia) said that 2015 had seen a continued increase in demand for peacekeeping, with heightened security risks, and more complex challenges, compounded by the absence of credible peace agreements or political processes and consent by local actors. Amidst the increasing challenges, an important window of opportunity to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping was also offered by the consideration of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446), the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682), and the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture. United Nations peacekeeping could truly fulfil its mandates only when all stakeholders played their roles effectively and cooperated to create synergies. Despite Member States' crucial observations and recommendations through the Special Committee over the years, relying solely on that forum would not be sufficient to meet the challenges of present and future peacekeeping operations. Despite the increasing difficulty posed by complex and multidimensional mandates, adherence to the agreed basic principles of peacekeeping was vital for success. Failure to respect those principles endangered the lives not only of peacekeepers but also of those under their protection.

24. Indonesia supported the renewed focus, outlined in the Panel's report, on making peace operations faster, more responsive and more accountable to the needs of countries and people in conflict. The Organization should give priority to prevention and to political solutions to conflict as the basis for deployment. He was confident that the formal deliberations on the reports before the Committee would yield further practical recommendations, addressing current and future challenges faced by missions in the field and at Headquarters. To achieve a coherent and integrated framework at the policy and operational level, strong leadership by the Secretary-General was equally important. The Secretariat should await the recommendations of the Special Committee before making any substantive changes to the backstopping of peacekeeping operations.

25. In addressing conflict situations or formulating exit strategies, it was vital to emphasize a comprehensive, well-coordinated and coherent approach encompassing social, political, and economic factors. The United Nations system and other regional and international partners must assist affected countries with nationally identified priorities for sustainable development and capacity- and institution-building.

26. Troop-contributing countries must also take the lead in improving peacekeeping operations by strengthening policies that could make a difference on the ground. The significant impact such countries could have was evidenced by the recent Asia-Pacific regional meeting on peacekeeping held in Jakarta and the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held at Headquarters. His delegation was encouraged by the pledges of further contributions made at the Summit and the positive interaction among countries and stakeholders.

27. With some 2,700 troops and police personnel currently deployed in nine missions, Indonesia was on track to realize its goal of providing 4,000 peacekeepers by 2019, to which end it had established a peacekeeper training centre. In 2015, Indonesia had finalized the deployment of an 800-strong composite battalion to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and was currently deploying three helicopters to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). In addition to plans to deploy, in 2016, a composite battalion of soldiers and a formed police unit comprising 100 police officers — 60 of whom would be women — his country also intended to increase its civilian capacity for peace operations.

28. Nevertheless, conflict prevention must remain at the core of all international efforts. Difficult as they might be, mediation, political dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes based on the principles of justice and international law were not only vital, but also cost-effective, as they spared countries the lingering effects of post-conflict.

29. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to undertake a comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. Brazil had deployed more than 46,000 troops and staff

in 50 missions since the inception of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and there were currently 1,300 Brazilian peacekeepers in the field, making up the largest military contingent for MINUSTAH and participating in the Maritime Task Force of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

30. His delegation welcomed the strong emphasis placed by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on the primacy of politics and preventive diplomacy, and congratulated the Panel on addressing crucial funding issues. For instance, establishing a separate account for the financing of special political missions would alleviate budgetary pressures on other essential United Nations activities, such as development and human rights. It was regrettable that the Secretary-General's report did not pay due attention to creating such a separate account.

31. Brazil also endorsed the Panel's conclusion that peacekeeping missions were not intended or equipped to perform counter-terrorism activities. The militarization of peacekeeping activities could divert the United Nations from its purpose of promoting peace.

32. Brazil favoured institutionalizing consultations between the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop-contributing countries prior to the establishment or renewal of peacekeeping mandates. The international community must find a better balance between the perspectives of the countries drafting the mandates and those implementing them.

33. It was also necessary to dispel the illusion that there was a sequential relationship between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Security Council should investigate the root causes of conflict, including its economic and social dimensions, starting at the earliest possible stage in drafting a peacekeeping mandate, and incorporate key peacebuilding objectives into that mandate. In the same vein, his delegation encouraged the General Assembly to undertake the review of peacekeeping operations in conjunction and synergy with the review of the peacebuilding architecture.

34. His delegation would work diligently to develop an improved common understanding of what was expected of peacekeepers. It supported the Secretariat in its efforts to develop more advanced and scenario-based training, especially with regard to civilian protection and the response to conflict-related sexual violence.

35. The international community must resist unjustified attempts to make security the focus of its agenda and be aware of their effect on the conception, funding and implementation of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should ensure that such operations remained a cooperative effort at the service of peace, political stability and sustainable development. Member States needed to reflect continuously on the evolution of peacekeeping operations as they became more complex and dangerous, and the Special Committee played an important in providing innovative approaches and ideas.

36. **Mr. Omer Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his Government highly valued the efforts and sacrifices of peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security and had been doing its utmost to assist UNAMID in the exercise of its duties, through close coordination, communication and monitoring. Since their inception, United Nations peacekeeping operations had been based on the principle of mutual consent and trust between host Governments and the Organization. Any loss of that trust would have a negative effect on the quality and success of peace operations.

37. Peacekeeping missions must fulfil their duties in accordance with their mandates and the principles of international law, including respect for the sovereignty, customs, heritage and territorial integrity of the host country, and non-use of force except in self-defence or in certain cases authorized by relevant Security Council resolutions. His delegation noted that the concept of peacekeeping operations was not specifically mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations and had instead been created in response to the Organization's practical experience. As part of the ongoing efforts of Member States to revitalize the work of the General Assembly, the erstwhile authority of the Assembly to establish peacekeeping missions should be restored. Establishing peacekeeping missions under Chapter VII of the Charter and unrealistically designating specific situations as being a threat to international peace and security served only to exacerbate discrimination against Members States, thus undermining the legal and customary principle of equality between all States.

38. The situation in Darfur had improved significantly as a result of the Sudanese Government's efforts to deal with the incessant attacks carried out against civilians and UNAMID peacekeepers by members of armed movements that had refused to participate in negotiations or comply with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur or with related Security Council resolutions. The Government had introduced harsher penalties for criminals responsible for looting and intimidation and the wave of tribal clashes had been stemmed thanks to efforts of regional governorates to implement the rule of law. Many former members of armed groups that were signatories of the Doha Document had been reintegrated into State forces, and tens of thousands of displaced persons had been able to return to their homes and resume their normal lives.

39. The Government of the Sudan firmly believed that comprehensive dialogue between all stakeholders, regardless of their political, ideological or other differences, was the most effective way to end the suffering in the country and tackle the root causes of conflict. To that end, Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir had launched a national dialogue initiative involving all stakeholders and created mechanisms for its implementation, in addition to providing the necessary guarantees to ensure the active participation of the leaders of armed and opposition groups who were based abroad. A significant number of representatives of political parties and armed groups had attended the launch of the dialogue initiative in October 2015.

40. Peacekeeping missions should be deployed in exceptional circumstances and should withdraw once those circumstances had improved and the reasons for deployment had ceased to exist. The Government of the Sudan therefore called for strict compliance with agreements on the presence and withdrawal of peacekeeping missions. Crises around the world could be solved only through a holistic approach which took into account the background and underlying causes of conflict.

41. **Mr. Alday González** (Mexico) said that the future of United Nations peacekeeping operations would depend on concerted action by all States to furnish the Organization with the necessary resources. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fourth and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly were the appropriate forums for discussions on peacekeeping operations, for which the respective reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General formed a solid basis.

42. To be able to perform their duties effectively and efficiently, peacekeeping operations and special political missions must not be subjected to unpredictable resource allocation. His delegation therefore found it regrettable that the Secretary-General's report had not been sufficiently specific regarding the establishment of a separate account for special political missions. Discussions on the future of peacekeeping must take into account the increasingly important role played by regional and subregional organizations and the key principle of national ownership in peacebuilding activities.

43. His delegation welcomed the emphasis placed by the Panel on prevention, mediation and the need for political rather than military solutions, all of which constituted long-standing pillars of Mexican foreign policy. With that in mind, care must be taken to ensure that the innovative solutions mentioned in the report did not contravene the principles of the Charter. His delegation strongly agreed with the Panel's recommendation that peacekeeping operations should refrain from conducting counter-terrorism activities and that peace enforcement tasks should remain exceptional. Investment in peace, development and security was the best way to prevent the continuation and re-emergence of conflicts.

44. In view of the crucial role played by female peacekeepers in building confidence, understanding protection requirements and communicating with women and girls in rural communities, the issue of gender must be mainstreamed throughout all aspects of peacekeeping operations. In addition, all possible measures must be taken to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse to prevent the actions of a minority from tarnishing the reputation of the Organization. Accountability for such matters must be an imperative, not an aspiration; troop-contributing countries must assume their responsibility to ensure that all civil and military personnel acted in a manner consistent with the values of the United Nations.

45. **Ms. Ang** (Singapore) said that the scope of United Nations peacekeeping operations had broadened in recent years owing to the increasing complexity of the global security environment and the rising prevalence of threats and violence worldwide. Her

delegation welcomed the various reviews of United Nations peace operations, all of which would help those operations adapt to the new environment and become more effective, efficient and responsive.

46. Singapore, which had participated in United Nations peacekeeping since 1989 and was also a member of Combined Task Force 151 to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden, remained committed to supporting the Organization's peacekeeping work as far as possible within its national capabilities. It actively sought to contribute to peacekeeping through capability development in the field of technology, which could serve as a vital tool for enhancing situational awareness in the current complex environment. On that basis, her Government was collaborating with the Organization to finalize a memorandum of understanding on an information management tool that would consolidate all relevant data into an interactive map interface and thus significantly enhance the ability of peacekeepers to plan, monitor and conduct operations.

47. Her delegation was concerned about recent reports of sexual abuse and exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers. It supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy and efforts to address the issue, including through the establishment of the External Independent Review Panel. The courageous efforts and sacrifices of all United Nations peacekeeping personnel were to be commended and must not be sullied by the reprehensible acts of a few.

48. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that strategic and operational capacity-building was required to enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of peacekeeping operations, which played a central role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Her delegation welcomed the recommendations contained in the reports of the Panel and Secretary-General and reaffirmed the need to apply both reports jointly and in full. She recalled that Member States had agreed to use the term "peace operations" when referring to both peacekeeping operations and special political missions together, unless otherwise specified.

49. All peacekeeping operations must be given clear and achievable mandates that took into account the specific requirements and priorities of each situation and could be adapted to changing circumstances in the field. Her delegation supported the recommendations on triangular cooperation, which should be further expanded to include comprehensive consultations of troop-contributing countries on all aspects of peacekeeping operations to ensure that mandates were consistent with States' capacities at every stage; such consultations were particularly important whenever substantial changes were made to mandates.

50. The basic principles of peacekeeping remained applicable. While the Government of Guatemala recognized that certain situations might arise in which civilians were under grave threat, thus requiring prompt intervention by United Nations forces within the framework of their mandate, it continued to have doubts concerning the scope and implications of peacekeeping operations defined as "robust". It should be noted that such operations deviated from the principal task at hand and that peacekeeping operations were neither designed nor equipped to impose political solutions through the continued use of force.

51. In view of the need to prioritize the safety and protection of peacekeeping personnel in the face of increasingly unstable security conditions and frequent direct attacks, her delegation welcomed the measures being taken to improve security analysis and ensure informed decision-making on security threats, and highlighted the need for swift transmission of the relevant information to troop-contributing countries. The current slow pace of investigations into attacks against United Nations personnel was of concern. The Secretariat and Member States must take measures to ensure the timely conduct of investigations into security incidents involving peacekeeping personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice.

52. Her Government was deeply concerned about the ongoing problem of sexual abuse and exploitation in peacekeeping operations. Such actions tarnished the reputation of all peacekeeping staff and must not be tolerated. The current system used by the Secretariat to follow up on such cases in cooperation with Member States remained deplorably deficient. Capacity-building throughout the United Nations system was therefore needed to ensure rapid, effective and impartial investigations into all reports of misconduct. Her delegation supported the recommendations on the establishment of rapid response teams and looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's progress report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

53. The Government of Guatemala remained committed to providing troops of the highest possible skill, efficiency, discipline and integrity to work under the banner of the United Nations.

54. **Ms. Stener** (Norway) said that the unprecedented support shown by the international community for peacekeeping operations gave grounds for optimism, despite the ongoing difficulties. Her delegation commended the Secretary-General's efforts to make United Nations peace operations more effective, efficient and responsive and welcomed the recommendations contained in the respective reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General. Swift action must be taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report and the long-term proposals made by the Panel must be passed on to his successor. Periodic progress reports should be submitted so as to maintain momentum and ensure transparency in the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

55. Member States must take action on the funding and backstopping of political missions, as called for by the Panel and the Secretary-General. The United Nations must play a central role in supporting peace processes in host countries, in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. Her delegation welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure the inclusion of all necessary resources in budget requests and emphasized the need to tailor mandates to the requirements of each situation. Norway also supported the call for a sequenced approach to mandates.

56. Deployment of civilian staff and uniformed personnel must be carried out more quickly, effectively and flexibly. Norway, which would provide financing to the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell to strengthen capacity for troop and police mobilization, reiterated its proposal that the United Nations should consider in-mission mentoring of contingents that encountered difficulties in complying with the Organization's standards.

57. Civilian protection was paramount and must be guaranteed through a holistic approach involving all mission components. Norway welcomed the Panel's emphasis on ensuring the availability of contingents with the necessary capacity to respond to threats and on enabling contingents to use force proactively in defence of their mandate. It also welcomed the willingness of the Secretary-General to sanction refusals to follow orders.

58. In view of the need for police operations to be unified and highly skilled to respond to increasingly complex mandates, her Government welcomed the planned finalization of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping. An integrated approach to capacity-building was needed, based on security sector reform and collaboration with criminal justice institutions and oversight mechanisms, both internal and external. Norway also supported the initiative for an external review of the United Nations Police Division.

59. As stipulated in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), women must be included as peacekeepers and at all levels of the Organization's engagement with host countries.

60. Burden-sharing should be promoted through partnerships with regional organizations, in particular the African Union. Such organizations were better placed than the United Nations to carry out peace enforcement. A decision must be taken on securing more predictable financing and support for African Union peace operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council. Norway therefore welcomed the decision by African Union member States to assume responsibility for up to 25 per cent of the cost of African Union operations.

61. Her delegation strongly supported the commitment expressed by the Secretary-General to end sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peace operations and emphasized the need for zero tolerance to maintain the Organization's credibility.

62. **Mr. Tenya Hasegawa** (Peru) said that the scope of peacekeeping mandates had evolved, alongside the changing nature of conflicts, to include such tasks as sustainable development, civilian capacity-building and humanitarian assistance. Notwithstanding such changes, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping must be strictly observed. The growing complexity of peacekeeping mandates required greater coordination between the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries to ensure that the countries whose troops were responsible for implementation on the ground could voice their opinions on mandate design, implementation and renewal. Peacekeeping

operations must also be provided with increased human and financial resources.

63. The perceived impartiality of peacekeeping operations was crucial to their legitimacy, the security of their staff and their long-term effectiveness. The inclusion of proactive peace enforcement in some mandates, such as that of the Intervention Brigade of MONUSCO, must be carefully assessed by Member States, taking into account the guiding principles of peacekeeping, especially impartiality, and the potential effects on personnel security and civilian protection.

64. He took note of the respective reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General, and welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Organization's peace operations. His delegation agreed on the need to reintroduce political dimensions into peace processes as part of a more holistic approach and reaffirmed the need to provide uniformed staff with better training facilities, equipment and technology to help them to fulfil their mandates and defend their personal security. Such changes would require a renewed global alliance on peacekeeping.

65. Peacekeeping personnel must set an example based on the fundamental principles of the United Nations. Peru therefore supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy and strongly condemned the behaviour of United Nations personnel who participated in any inappropriate or immoral conduct, especially the sexual abuse or exploitation of women and children.

66. Peruvian personnel were currently serving in eight peacekeeping operations and the country was deploying contingents to build and maintain aerodromes as part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Peru was firmly committed to United Nations peacekeeping operations, to which it had pledged to provide additional resources in the near future.

67. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that peacekeeping operations were intended to calm conflict, maintain peace and ensure an environment conducive to post-conflict peacebuilding. The principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States should be respected without discretionary decisions or politicization. His delegation affirmed the importance of implementing the basic principles of peacekeeping, which required the consent of the host country and cooperation in all matters pertaining to the forces deployed. Although the Syrian Arab Republic supported efforts to develop peacekeeping operations at all levels, such operations were no substitute for permanent solutions that addressed the root causes of conflict. His delegation took note of the Secretary-General's initiative on strengthening the United Nations system, including the creation of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. It affirmed that all policy and strategy on peace operations must be developed and adopted through intergovernmental processes and that only the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had the authority to deal with measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to carry out peace operations.

68. Peacekeeping operations addressing the protection of civilians should discharge their mandates without encroaching on the host country's primary responsibility in that regard. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext to interfere in a State's internal affairs and it was vital to reach a common legal definition of civilian protection before establishing standards for the concept.

69. His country had always had excellent relations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and was committed to supporting those missions by all possible means. Although their mandates had been established for a limited period, Israel's continued aggression, occupation and refusal to abide by relevant international decisions had forced United Nations peacekeeping forces to remain in the Middle East for decades, at great financial and human cost. His delegation therefore urged the United Nations to exert pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Arab land and cease its aggression against the countries and peoples of the region so that peacekeepers could return home to their families.

70. His delegation expressed concern about threats to peacekeeping personnel that challenged work on the ground and threatened the lives of personnel, including in the Golan region, where terrorist attacks and kidnappings had led some UNDOF forces to withdraw temporarily from certain places, as shown in the Secretary-General's most recent report on UNDOF

(S/2015/699). Those attacks had confirmed the warnings of the Syrian Arab Republic about the support of certain countries, including Israel, for terrorist groups linked to Al-Qaida that were active in the area of disengagement. His delegation called for an end to Israeli support for terrorism in order to allow UNDOF forces to return to the positions that they had been forced to evacuate.

71. **Mr. Zehnder** (Switzerland) said that the reviews and processes currently under way provided a rare opportunity to bring about necessary change in the peacekeeping system. His delegation therefore welcomed the recommendations made by the Panel and the Secretary-General in their respective reports.

72. In view of the crucial importance of politics and conflict prevention, entities working in conflict prevention should be provided with capacity-building, and special political missions should be strengthened and allocated predictable funding. The notion of sustaining peace should be promoted though greater cooperation and consistency throughout the entire United Nations system, with a focus on confidence-building measures, mediation and human rights work, with key support from the Peacebuilding Commission.

73. While civilian protection was an integral part of peace operations, the primary responsibility for protecting civilians lay with States and other parties to armed conflict. Switzerland was strongly in favour of enhancing the Organization's various actions in that area, especially through non-military tools such as advocacy, credible reporting and liaising with communities to help affected populations to exercise their rights. It was also necessary to provide personnel with mission-specific training based on best practices and preserve the neutrality of humanitarian stakeholders.

74. Police had an increasingly important role to play given the nature of modern conflicts and the complexity of mandates. To support police reform and institution-strengthening, which were crucial in the wake of a conflict, Switzerland had deployed a number of police specialists to the United Nations and other organizations and planned to increase its police contributions to MINUSMA and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

75. Switzerland was strongly committed to tackling sexual and gender-based violence and would continue to increase its cooperation efforts in that field. It fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation and the partnership between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and Justice Rapid Response, which enabled the rapid deployment of experts to investigate such incidents.

76. Highlighting the need for sustained momentum to successfully implement the recommendations, he urged all stakeholders to cooperate closely and remain open to innovative solutions.

77. **Mr. Toro-Carnevali** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, as highlighted in the Panel's report, it was important to take into account that peacekeeping forces in "conflict management" missions like MINUSMA were being asked to deter the escalation of conflicts, protect civilians and start or revive a peace process. The Panel did not conceal the harsh reality that to fulfil such mandates, peacekeeping forces would have to resort to using offensive force, which would make them parties to the conflict.

78. Peacekeeping operations were ill-equipped to fulfil such tasks and their weaknesses could be exploited in direct confrontations with armed groups, as past experience had shown. They should therefore refrain from participating in military operations against terrorist groups, as they lacked the requisite equipment, intelligence, logistics, capabilities and specialized military preparation. They must not engage in operations that sought to impose peace by force — except on an exceptional basis, as in the case of the Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — so as to avoid becoming party to the conflict and obstructing the humanitarian and political work of the Organization on the ground. Furthermore, peacekeeping missions should not be called upon to assume residual tasks or counter-terrorism operations after ad hoc or regional forces had withdrawn.

79. His delegation was not suggesting that Member States should abandon countries in conflict to their fate, but rather that they should capitalize on the growing potential of regional and subregional organizations by giving them a more prominent role in the preservation of peace and security, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter. The African Union was the foremost regional partner of the United Nations, a fact that underscored the importance of working with Africa to solve African issues.

80. A successful example of triangular cooperation had been seen in Somalia, with African Union forces on the ground, political and logistical assistance from the United Nations, and funding from the European Union and other donors, and with the consent and active participation of the Somali State. Although the conflict was still ongoing, the success of that cooperation was beyond doubt. Once the security conditions in Somalia permitted, a United Nations peacekeeping operation with a comprehensive and multidimensional mandate would be deployed to consolidate peace. It was unfortunate that African Union missions in Mali and the Central African Republic had been refused logistical and financial support by the Security Council, which had instead favoured the deployment of ad hoc missions. The United Nations must not turn its back on the African Union. It must ensure sustained, foreseeable and flexible funding and the necessary logistical and political support for African Union missions. That must be the foundation of the strategic alliance proposed by the Panel and the Secretary-General.

81. United Nations peacekeeping operations could not do everything on their own. However, the Organization excelled at deploying comprehensive and multidimensional missions, with well-trained staff, to assist countries in conflict in the transition to and consolidation of peace, and that should remain its focus.

82. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that his Government commended United Nations peacekeepers for their commitment and dedication to their work and paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in the service of peace. Kenya attached great importance to international peace and security, as evidenced by its long-standing contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

83. Development had no worse enemy than war. Conflicts resulted in death, suffering and the displacement of entire populations, destroyed a country's infrastructure, diverted resources and disrupted economic life, including food supplies. They also undermined education and health services and destroyed livelihoods. Consequently, conflict prevention was just as important as development and the two were inextricably linked. Neither peace nor development could be achieved in any meaningful way unless individuals and their rights were protected. Peacekeeping operations played a significant role in that regard and contributed significantly to stabilizing countries in conflict.

84. Peacekeeping was undergoing significant transformation as missions became more complex and multidimensional. His delegation welcomed measures aimed at building the capacity and capabilities of peacekeeping operations and improving the quality of troops. The Panel's report would provide a useful basis for addressing contemporary peacekeeping challenges. The four shifts identified in the report — adopting a political approach, utilizing the full spectrum of peacekeeping operations, strengthening partnerships and maintaining the Organization's focus on the field — should be central to the international community's efforts to make peacekeeping operations more efficient and better equipped to respond to the needs on the ground. The international community should focus on the areas in which gaps had been identified, which included planning, operational capabilities, support for rapid deployment and expanding the base of troop- and police-contributing countries. In the long term, it would also be crucial to downsize peace operations with a focus on transitional planning for sustainable peacebuilding.

85. Mediation, which had been mentioned by the Panel, was a tool for preventing conflict and peacefully settling disputes which would require consultation with all partners and draw on the experience of regional and non-governmental organizations, civil society and women's groups. The international community could also consult the Peacebuilding Commission, the World Bank and United Nations entities in the field. Mediation efforts could not solely rely on voluntary funding: they saved lives and resources and deserved secure funding.

86. Regional organizations had become an important tool in maintaining peace and security. The African Union played a proactive role in peacemaking processes throughout the African continent. Kenya welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to ensuring the availability of predictable and sustainable funding for regional organizations.

87. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa) said that the nature of conflict was evolving and new threats to global peace and security continued to emerge. Recently, the international community had witnessed local conflicts spread and threaten national and regional peace and stability. Even stable Governments were increasingly

ill-equipped to combat on their own new transnational forces that engaged in violent extremism and organized crime. Consequently, the reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General were particularly timely and relevant.

88. His delegation supported the call of the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General to search for political solutions, which must be at the heart of United Nations peace operations. To that end, the United Nations should work closely with regional and subregional organizations in their mediation and peace-making efforts and place greater emphasis on preventative action to address the root causes of conflicts and prevent relapses. That would require greater synergy between peacekeeping and peacebuilding mechanisms and adapting to political processes aimed at finding a peaceful solution to conflicts.

89. Given that peace operations were but a means to an end, it was a matter of concern that long-standing missions continued to exist despite the absence of political will to address the situation on the ground. In some cases, peacekeeping operations were mandated to help enforce a political settlement. The recent experience of South Africa with the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrated the success of enforcement action in support of a political solution.

90. While United Nations peacekeeping missions were increasingly being entrusted with the protection of civilians, that task remained the responsibility of the host Government, which the United Nations must support. His delegation nevertheless shared the Secretary-General's view that where a specific protection mandate was assigned to a peacekeeping operation, the task should be carried out effectively. However, protecting civilians would require that peacekeeping operations had the requisite capabilities to do so.

91. Regional organizations were playing an ever larger role in peace-making and peacekeeping. It was often regional organizations such as the African Union which responded first and deployed troops early to stabilize crisis situations, thus enabling the United Nations to deploy a mission when conditions were more favourable. South Africa therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's call for greater global-regional partnerships and burden-sharing. The appeal made by the Panel and the Secretary-General for sustained, predictable and flexible funding mechanisms for African Union peace operations could best be met through the use of contributions assessed by the Organization. His delegation looked forward to receiving the recommendations of the joint United Nations-African Union review of finance and support mechanisms for African Union peace operations and the joint United Nations-African Union framework for an enhanced partnership in peace and security. While he appreciated the continued collaboration and coordination of the United Nations and the African Union at the Secretariat level, interaction should be encouraged between the Security Council and the African Union Executive Council at the strategic and legislative levels in order to achieve strategic coherence between the two organizations.

92. Gender mainstreaming in peace missions ensured that women's concerns and experiences were at the forefront of peacekeeping policy. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to increase the number of women in peacekeeping, particularly in leadership positions, as they would play a strategic role in integrating the gender perspective into the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. South Africa was one of the top contributors of women through its police deployment to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and UNAMID.

93. South Africa had a zero-tolerance policy on sexual violence and abuse. Perpetrators must be held accountable in order to end impunity, especially in cases involving women and children. A more holistic approach to addressing sexual and gender-based violence needed to be adopted. In that regard, his delegation welcomed such measures as the victims' assistance programme proposed by the Secretary-General and looked forward to his recommendations on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

94. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Egypt) said that his delegation was grateful to the High-level Panel on Peace Operations for duly consulting with Member States and regional groups. Egypt had supported those regional discussions by hosting the Arab region's talks and co-organizing the African consultations through the Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa.

95. United Nations peacekeeping currently faced greater demand and complexity, increasing the burden on the Organization and on troop- and police-contributing countries. It was crucial for all stakeholders to take stock of those challenges and commit to strengthening the role of the United Nations.

96. Peacekeeping should not be used as an alternative to addressing the root causes of conflict, but as part of a comprehensive and coherent approach that could be implemented using political, social and development tools. There was a clear need for triangular cooperation between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. It was therefore important to achieve consensus on policy development among Member States while implementing only those approaches that had been collectively endorsed. To that end, troop-contributing countries would have to be more involved in doctrine development and decision-making processes.

97. The role of regional organizations must be strengthened in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, including by means of support to the African Union to deploy capable peacekeeping missions, specifically through the provision of predictable and flexible financial resources. As a founding member and one of the main contributors to the African Union, Egypt was committed to strengthening United Nations-African Union partnership and cooperation, including through capacity-building programmes. Egypt was also committed to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

98. With regard to the discussion of robust mandates, every effort must be directed towards ensuring sufficient deterrence in accordance with basic peacekeeping principles. Any use of force must be properly justified, absolutely necessary, duly mandated and in conformity with the principles and purposes of the Charter while also maintaining a delicate balance between impartiality, use of force and the protection of civilians. Civilian protection should not be used as a pretext for military intervention. A solution must be found to the legal difficulties caused by characterizing civilians in armed conflicts as combatants.

99. The issue of intelligence-gathering must be approached carefully and in full conformity with the principles of the Charter. The effects on host and neighbouring countries must be considered, and issues related to the control and confidentiality of collected information must be addressed.

100. It was unacceptable that crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse went unpunished. Not only did that promote a culture of impunity, but it also negatively affected the reputation and credibility of the peacekeeping mission and the United Nations as a whole. Troop- and police-contributing countries must ensure that their troops were held accountable under their respective national legislation.

101. He drew attention to the Cairo Regional Centre for Training in Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa, which had trained about 5,000 personnel from over 40 African States in 2014-2015. In addition to offering courses for United Nations and African Union senior mission leaders, it also provided training to the North African Regional Capacity, which was part of the African Standby Force.

102. **Mr. Forés Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations was a constant challenge. Such issues as imprecise and complex mandates, dissimilar situations on the ground and the preparation and conduct of participating troops required thorough analysis. Regardless of their complexity, peacekeeping mandates must be based on strict respect for the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, notably the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, and should be governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping. Precise mandates with clear objectives and related financing and material resources that were adapted to the reality on the ground would improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations; concerted action by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee and the Security Council was therefore essential.

103. Cooperation between host countries, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council was needed, with the active participation of host and troop-contributing countries in all stages of the decision-making process. Firm commitments regarding the troops to be deployed, clear forecasts of the resources required and a coherent exit strategy should be in place prior to the approval and deployment of each operation. Peacebuilding activities carried out in the early stages of a peacekeeping operation were fundamental to helping countries

emerging from conflict to develop and strengthen strategies for sustainable development. Eradicating hunger, poverty and inequality was the only way to overcome the cycle of conflict, build and sustain peace and avoid the need for further peacekeeping operations with high human and material costs. The use of modern technology should be aimed at guaranteeing the security and protection of peacekeeping forces, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping and the principles set out in the Charter.

104. Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations must be regulated under Chapter VIII of the Charter, and could never supplant the role of the United Nations or contradict the basic principles of peacekeeping operations, since primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security rested with the United Nations. The protection of civilians rested with States and should never be used as a pretext to ignore the principles of the Charter or change the basic principles of peacekeeping; nor should it be used as an excuse for mandates that legitimized military intervention or action to bring down legitimate Governments. Imposing peace in a country in conflict was as dangerous as conflict itself and, in addition to being divisive, was a breach of international law.

105. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that his delegation reaffirmed the Organization's central role in maintaining international peace and security, and paid tribute to the sacrifices of peacekeepers. Over the years, United Nations peacekeeping operations had evolved dramatically into more complex missions that assisted in political processes, established transitional authority, provided humanitarian aid and relief, reintegrated former combatants and prevented human rights violations. His Government would explore all possibilities for implementing the outcomes of the Panel's report, in cooperation with other Member States and interested partners and stakeholders.

106. The child protection services of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations made an immense contribution to implementing the agenda for children and armed conflict in cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF and other United Nations entities. The child protection component of peacekeeping missions had done invaluable work in monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children and mainstreaming child protection into the missions' work, which included advising senior leadership, advocating child protection concerns in political and peace processes, and providing training for troops and personnel. That fundamental role must not be compromised when reconfiguring or consolidating the civilian components of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

107. To date, Malaysia had participated in 35 United Nations peacekeeping missions, deploying over 29,000 military and police personnel. Malaysian peacekeepers currently served in six missions and were expected to carry out a comprehensive mandate involving the protection of civilians, addressing sexual violence and overcoming human rights challenges. At the recent Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held at the margins of the general debate of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, Prime Minister Najib Razak had announced his Government's new commitments to United Nations peacekeeping missions, which included police officers, personnel and an engineering unit.

108. In confronting non-traditional security challenges at the regional level, Malaysia worked closely with ASEAN, of which it was the current Chair, and its member States. The proposed ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief would seek to enhance cooperation on quick military deployment to crisis areas. At the same time, meeting the multi-dimensional demands faced by peacekeepers required continued capacity-building and training, which was the key to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and conduct.

109. To ensure their safety, military and civilian personnel deployed in perilous locations must be given the necessary skills through a common training module prior to their deployment. In that connection, the Malaysian Armed Forces would collaborate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to organize a training of trainers course on the protection of civilians at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre in April 2016. In partnership with the United Nations, the Centre conducted annual specialized courses for United Nations military observers, staff officers and peacekeeping instructors.

110. Timely exchanges and information-sharing were crucial for improving interoperability and enhancing the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. There must be clarity in the roles and responsibilities of peacekeeping operations, especially when they operated alongside other United Nations peacebuilding

actors and regional organizations. Greater consultation and engagement among the United Nations and troop-contributing countries would result in better coordination and transparency in the formulation and implementation of peacekeeping mandates.

111. **Ms. Sughayar** (Jordan) said that peacekeeping operations were an extremely important part of the work of the United Nations, particularly in the light of the rising number and intensity of conflicts worldwide. Over the past few years, the nature and scope of conflicts had evolved; many conflicts spilled well beyond geographical borders and threatened parts of the world previously considered to be safe. The comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations came at an opportune moment, when new structures, innovative methods and smart solutions were required to enable the United Nations to respond swiftly to mitigate the effects, tackle the root causes and prevent the re-emergence of conflicts. Her delegation welcomed the respective reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General and agreed with the majority of the recommendations they contained.

112. Peacekeeping operations were designed to create favourable conditions for the achievement of peace and did not represent an alternative to negotiated solutions at the national level; regional or international mediation efforts must therefore be strongly underpinned by political will from all parties to a conflict.

113. Peacekeeping missions must be provided with the necessary specialized training to respond swiftly and efficiently to all types and levels of threat. Personnel must be selected based on their skills and suitability and given proper training to enable them to fulfil their duty to protect civilians.

114. In certain cases, the lack of a common stance on how best to respond to conflicts in the Middle East and Africa had led to further complications; States must strive to overcome their differences so as to strengthen regional and international partnerships. In that regard, Jordan called on the United Nations to cooperate more closely with the League of Arab States with a view to enhancing the international response to conflict in the Middle East.

115. The humanitarian mission of peacekeeping must not be undermined by the deplorable actions of individuals who committed human rights violations, including sexual exploitation and abuse. All States must adopt a firm stance on the issue and establish the necessary mechanisms to document and investigate such crimes within a specific time frame. Jordan urged the United Nations to strengthen the capacity of States to tackle sexual harassment, prosecute the perpetrators and focus on awareness-raising so as to permanently eradicate such crimes. Jordan looked forward to the publication of the new guidelines on dealing with violence and sexual exploitation, which it hoped would take into account Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein's 2005 report entitled "A comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations" and establish a new framework for conduct and discipline in peacekeeping missions.

116. Triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries must be reinforced to ensure that the latter were thoroughly consulted on the design, implementation and adaptation of peacekeeping mandates throughout every stage of the process. Such consultations would contribute to the Secretary-General's efforts to improve predeployment training and capacity-building.

117. As a Member State and troop-contributing country, Jordan was committed to working closely with the United Nations, peacekeeping host countries and other troop-contributing countries on an equal basis to implement the recommendations contained in the two reports currently under consideration, with a view to ensuring that peacekeeping missions were well equipped to tackle the challenges of the modern day. She underlined the need for the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to examine the reports, in its capacity as the only body with a mandate to review all matters relating to peacekeeping.

118. Based on its strong commitment to the work of the United Nations in the field of conflict resolution and prevention, her Government was strengthening its cooperation with the Organization. Jordan was the largest contributor of police forces to peacekeeping operations, with a total of 1,580 Jordanian police currently serving in peacekeeping missions. Jordan paid tribute to all peacekeepers and commended their efforts and sacrifices in the exercise of their duties.

119. **Mr. Ilichev** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation endorsed the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations with

regard to prioritizing political dialogue as a tool for resolving conflict situations and the importance of strengthening regional mechanisms for resolving crises. There was a strong need to consider the transnational nature of threats of violence.

120. It was especially relevant to develop intergovernmental regional cooperation and collaborate with regional and subregional organizations, including by exchanging information and best practices and providing field support with a view to responding effectively to existing and future challenges. Combating crises in the Sudan, Somalia and other areas had shown the potential of such organizations — above all the African Union — in conflict prevention and resolution. His delegation saw a growing opportunity for peacekeeping cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organizations. While it welcomed the Panel's affirmation of the fundamental United Nations peacekeeping principles, it did not agree that those principles should be loosely interpreted on the basis of the changing situation on the ground, particularly with respect to the use of force by peacekeepers. However, it fully agreed that it was unacceptable to use United Nations peacekeeping forces to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

121. His Government did not share the widespread view that the sole purpose of peacekeeping was to protect the civilian population and facilitate humanitarian aid. Increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations must above all contribute to the primary goals of peacekeeping: to maintain peace, support the political process and ensure security in the host country. Using those tasks as justification for external military intervention that served the political ends of individual States was unacceptable, and could lead to the spread of conflict to neighbouring countries and undermine State sovereignty. Any United Nations presence must support the host country on the basis of that country's priorities through cooperation with local authorities and support for capacity-building.

122. The use of advanced technical equipment, and in particular the experimental use of unmanned aerial vehicles, should be carefully reviewed and discussed. Their deployment raised a range of issues in the political, legal and budgetary spheres and in the area of monitoring collected information and ensuring its confidentiality.

123. Human rights and gender parity issues received excessive attention and required a more balanced approach. The proposal to endow the Secretariat with broad powers on personnel policy must also be treated with caution, including with regard to the deployment and management of civilian personnel.

124. Issues related to the safety of peacekeeping contingents were central to the deployment and functioning of peacekeeping operations. The host country was directly responsible for peacekeepers' safety; it was therefore imperative to establish a constructive relationship between peacekeeping forces and local authorities.

125. Ongoing dialogue was needed between the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries on all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including in the planning and mandate development stages. Potential threats to United Nations personnel must be reviewed thoroughly during the planning of operations. Goals could not be achieved at the price of unjustified risk to United Nations peacekeepers. The Military Staff Committee could offer the military expertise necessary to formulate appropriate steps within the framework of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

126. The timely development of deployment strategies for peacekeeping operations, particularly in the light of limited financial resources, would contribute to the more effective fulfilment of mandates by peacekeeping missions and prevent the undesirable side effects of integrating peacekeepers into internal structures.

127. There was a need for a substantive review and discussion of the entire spectrum of issues related to reforming United Nations peacekeeping operations, including administrative and budgetary matters, by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fifth Committee.

128. **Mr. Akahori** (Japan) said that the current challenge was to make peacekeeping operations sustainable with limited financial and human resources while maintaining functionality. His delegation welcomed the opportunity provided by the review process for peace operations to discuss how to meet that challenge. Japan looked forward to contributing fully to the intergovernmental discussions on the proposals for reform contained in the reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General. The broader pledges made at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping would

significantly accelerate such reform. Discussions and fulfilment of pledges must move in tandem.

129. The international community had various instruments for international peace and security at its disposal, including peacekeeping operations, special political missions, United Nations country teams, and regional and bilateral support functions. It needed to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each tool and use them in a combination that best corresponded to the situation on the ground. It also needed to continuously check whether the configuration adopted remained effective in achieving sustainable peace.

130. As recommended in the two reports, a mission's mandate should be tailored to the reality of the situation on the ground. The Secretary-General should keep a close eye on developments on the ground and make timely and realistic recommendations to the Security Council, which should review each mission's mandate in a timely manner. Mission mandates should not be automatically renewed and the mandates of prolonged missions should be thoroughly reviewed. To that end, the Security Council must maintain a dialogue with the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries. As an elected member of the Security Council for 2016-2017, Japan was committed to enhancing such dialogue.

131. Expanding the number of troop- and police-contributing countries would help increase the number of available peacekeepers. Japan would proactively support the endeavours of new and emerging troop-contributing countries. It was also urgent to increase the number of qualified personnel necessary for current peacekeeping operations. Training was indispensable for securing such personnel. The two reports welcomed capacity-building initiatives through triangular partnership arrangements between the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and third-party countries with specific capabilities. The Department of Field Support and Japan had jointly launched an innovative project using a financial contribution from his country of approximately $40 million. Experts from the Japan Self-Defence Forces had trained military engineers from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to maintain and operate heavy engineering equipment. Following additional work on project design, full-scale training would take place in 2016. Japan would continue to support such initiatives and encouraged Member States to help build on that project or start similar triangular partnerships in other areas mentioned in the reports, such as medical services and information.

132. Recent allegations of reprehensible acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, particularly the allegations of incidents in the Central African Republic, had damaged the Organization's integrity and credibility and tarnished the noble contributions of the more than 100,000 peacekeepers currently deployed. Robust measures against that unacceptable behaviour were necessary. Japan firmly supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy and called for the immediate implementation of the measures recommended in his report. Japan also continued to support the Department of Field Support's e-learning programme for field personnel on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.